

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: LEFTIST EZEQUIEL RAMIREZ NOVOA BECOMES PRESIDENT OF
PERUVIAN LAWYERS FEDERATION

1. IN WHAT LOCAL LEFTIST PRESS HAS REPRESENTED AS A GOVERNMENT VICTORY, LEFTIST EZEQUIEL RAMIREZ NOVOA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS (FEDERACION NACIONAL DE COLEGIOS DE ABOGADOS) ON MAY 26. MEETING AT THEIR 8TH NATIONAL CONGRESS IN AYACUCHO, LAWYERS REPRESENTING 16 PERUVIAN BAR ASSOCIATIONS STRIPPED ARCH-CONSERVATIVE LUIS FELIPE VILLARAN FREIRE OF THE FEDERATION'S PRESIDENCY AND ELECTED RAMIREZ. VILLARAN DID NOT BOTHER TO ATTEND THE CONGRESS, WHICH PRODUCED A WALKOUT BY THE MAJORITY OF THE LIMA BAR ASSOCIATION DELIGATES HEADED BY APRISTA CARLOS ENRIQUE FERREYROS.

2. EARLIER IN 1975, FERREYROS BEAT OUT RAMIREZ FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LIMA BAR. RAMIREZ RAN THIRD AMONG NINE CANDIDATES IN THE FIRST ROUND. FERREYROS SECURED 903 VOTES, GERMAN APARICIO VALDEZ 750, AND RAMIREZ 512. HIS SHOWING IN THE LIMA RACE WAS PRESUMABLY GALLING TO THE GOVERNMENT SINCE RAMIREZ WAS GENERALLY REPUTED TO BE THE GOP'S CANDIDATE.

3. RAMIREZ WAS MORE FORTUNATE IN THE FEDERATION'S ELECTION. THE EMBASSY CANNOT COMMENT, HOWEVER, ON WHETHER THE AYACUCHO MEETING
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WAS CALLED FOR ACCORDING TO THE FEDERATION'S CONSTITUTION

(VILLARAN'S 2-YEAR TERM HAD NOT EXPIRED) OR WHETHER THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING REPRESENTED THE MAORITY VOEWs AMONG PROVINCIAL LAWYERS.

4. THE REGIME'S PLEASURE WITH THE OUTCOME WAS EVIDENT IN THE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY SHOWERED UPON RAMIREZ BY THE PRESS WHILE FERREYROS WAS VILIFIED. ACCORDING TO "OJO" OF MAY 27, FERREYROS AND A MAJORITY OF THE LIMA DELEGATION WALKED OUT OF THE CONGRESS WHEN THE ROLE OF IMPERIALISM IN PERU WAS UNDER DISCUSSION. REPORTEDLY, DR. ALVARO ZEVALLOS LOZANO OF LA LIBERTAD PRESENTED A MOTION SUPPORTING THE GOP'S FOREIGN POLICY AND URGING IT TO KEEP FIGHTING AGAINST "YANKEE IMPERIALISM." RAMIREZ CRITICIZED PAN-AMERICANISM AND CALLED FOR AN EXCLUSIVE LATIN ORGANIZATION OF MAERICAN STATES. FERREYROS APPARENTLY FOUGHT THESE MOTIONS AND THEN LED PART OF HIS DELEGATION OUT.

5. RAMIREZ IS A WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST LAWYER, WHO HAS OFTEN BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH COMMUNIST FRONT ACTIVITIES IN PERU. HE WAS AMONG THOSE WHO MOST ACTIVELY CALLED FOR THE RESTORATION OF PERU'S DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CUBA; TODAY, HE IS REPORTEDLY THE CUBAN EMBASSY'S LEGAL ADVISER. IN YEARS PAST, HE ALSO WORKED ACTIVELY FOR THE

NATIONALIZATION OF PERU'S OIL AND COPPER DEPOSITS. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF THE MOST RADICAL ADVISERS OF THE REGIME. RAMIREZ IS 54, A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND A PROLIFIC WRITER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MOST OF HIS BOOKS ARE DENUNCIATIONS OF IMPERIALISM. AFTER CHAMPIONING RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND NATIONALIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY, HE DISAPPEARED FROM THE PUBLIC EYE (OR AT LEAST FROM THE EMBASSY'S BIOGRAPHIC FILES) IN THE EARLY 1970S. HE SURFACED IN LATE 1974 AS A CANDIDATE TO THE LIMA BAR ASSOCIATION. HIS EARLY CAREER IS RECORDED IN LIMA'S 1355 OF MARCH 3, 1969 AND A-148 OF APRIL 9, 1969.

6. IN ADDITION TO RAMIREZ, THE FEDERATION'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDES RAUL TORRES FERNANDEZ (AREQUIPA), JULIO REYES CARRERA (ICA), VICTOR GUEVARA PEZO (ICA) AND JULIA JORDAN ANCHIRRI (CALLAO). THEY WILL PRESUMABLY DO THEIR BEST TO RADICALIZE PERIVIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

7. MEN LIKE RAMIREZ CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO SIT IN AN EVENTUAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERUVIAN PARLIAMENT, IF, AS SOME ADVOCATE, CORPORATE-STYLE ELECTIONS ARE VENTUALLY HELD. THE HEADS OF ORGANIZATIONS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHETHER THEY WERE ELECTED DEMOCRATICALLY BY THOSE THEY CLAIM TO REPRESENT OR NOT. THUS RAMIREZ, WHO AS FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE DOES NOT HAVE A MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRY'S LAWYERS BEHIND HIM (THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY RESIDE IN LIMA), WILL SEPAK FOR PERU'S LAWYERS.
DEAN

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